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REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

LETTER JAN 29 1937. *

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936

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printed

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, January 12, 1937.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the act of Congress approved February 18, 1929 (45 Stat. 1222; U. S. Code, supp., ch. 7a), I present herewith report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1936.

Respectfully,

H. A. WALLACE,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Chairman Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

REPORT OF MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR 1936

Notable progress was made during the fiscal year 1936 in the acquisition of lands for refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and by means of emergency funds made available for the purpose. The latter acquisitions, however, were not specifically under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act but the accomplishments were predicated upon the purposes set forth by that act. This report, therefore, could not give a clear

presentation of the migratory-bird refuge program if in the first place it did not take notice of the accomplishments made possible by emergency funds, and in the second place if it did not refer back to what had been done previously in establishing refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Furthermore, the same instrumentality was used in investigating, appraising, and surveying the lands taken with emergency funds, and with the funds regularly appropriated for refuge acquisition, under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, namely, the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture.

EARLY AND RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Prior to the fiscal year 1935 only 122,594 acres had been acquired for refuge purposes by purchase, and 946,214 acres had been reserved out of the public domain or from other nationally owned land, a total of 1,068,808 acres for bird-refuge purposes. (Notes 5 and 7 in table 1 explain why the acreage acquired by Executive order, and the corresponding total, are less than shown in table 1 of the annual report for 1934.) At the close of the fiscal year 1935, by means of emergency funds made available to the Biological Survey, 710,136 acres of land, embraced by 38 refuges and costing \$5,563,087, were under purchase agreement and in various stages of conveyance to the United States. During the fiscal year 1936, with emergency funds, 197,318 acres of land, costing \$985,385, were taken under purchase agreement and an additional 727,900 acres, costing \$3,982,579, were approved for acquisition by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, the necessary funds having been made available especially for that purpose through the facilities offered by act of June 15, 1935, under title VII (continuance of appropriation of the act of Mar. 16, 1934), wherein \$6,000,000 was appropriated for the acquisition of land for the restoration, rehabilitation, and protection of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife and for the erection and construction thereon and in connection therewith of buildings, dikes, dams, canals, and other necessary works. These purchases were designed to round out those refuge projects that at the time were incomplete and to establish 15 new refuges.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, passed to supplement and support the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and to provide funds for the acquisition of lands, and for their development and administration, has, during the 2 years since its enactment, provided only \$1,060,314, none of which has been expended for the purchase of land, but mostly for the development and administration of properties that have been acquired with other funds. This total is subject to some increase, however, since all credits to the Biological Survey for the sale of these stamps have not yet been deposited.

During the life of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, that is, from July 1, 1929, to the present, 5,504,323 acres have been examined and appraised in 205 prospective refuges distributed throughout the United States. During the same period, 85 refuges have been acquired in whole or in part, having an aggregate area of 5,695,533 acres covered by purchase agreements, now in various stages of title vesting. Also during this time 13,328 miles of auxiliary lines and boundaries have been surveyed, and the latter monumented and posted, with a view to facilitating administration.

Purchase negotiations were continuing at the end of the fiscal year looking to the acquisition of additional lands within incomplete refuge units and on new projects at prices within the appraised values. When such negotiations are successful, the projects will be submitted to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for consideration for approval, with the end in view of furthering the administration's program of providing adequately for the wildlife resources of the Nation.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The following statement of expenditures sets out the funds and the source of funds available for refuge acquisitions since the passage of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, including funds made directly available by the provisions of that act and the funds also made available from emergency appropriations.

Under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act Congress authorized certain funds to be appropriated each year. The amounts so authorized and the amounts appropriated for the years 1930-36 were as follows:

Fiscal year	Author- ized	Appro- priated	Fiscal year	Author- ized	Appro- priated
1930.....	\$75,000	\$75,000	1934.....	\$1,000,000	\$89,525
1931.....	200,000	200,000	1935.....	1,000,000	65,015
1932.....	600,000	400,000	1936.....	1,000,000	67,510
1933.....	1,000,000	318,000			

Despite the limitation of funds, however, during the years 1930-34 a total of 1,075,452 acres was acquired for refuge purposes by purchase, Executive order, reservation, or gift. During the year 1934 the first emergency funds were made available, the first being under the National Industrial Recovery Act. Although the major part of this money went toward the surveying of refuges already established, \$5,217 was expended for the purchase of some 446 acres of land needed to round out refuges already under administration by the Survey.

Emergency appropriations during 1935 and 1936 enabled the Bureau to carry out the purposes of the act. Executive Order No. 6724 allotted the sum of \$1,000,000 to the Survey from \$20,000,000 allocated to the Forest Service from the appropriation for National Industrial Recovery. With this amount 94,523 acres were added to the refuge program. Further acquisitions were made possible under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Resettlement Administration. These agencies purchased lands, which were examined, appraised, negotiated for, and surveyed by the Biological Survey. Under such an arrangement 723,341 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$5,659,163.

From the \$6,000,000 made available for the acquisition by purchase or otherwise of lands necessary to the refuge program by act of June 15, 1935, title VII, 611,597 acres were acquired up to the end of this fiscal year. Title V of the same act authorized the President to allocate such sum as he might deem necessary for the acquisition by purchase, or otherwise, of lands for refuge purposes. An allocation of \$950,000 was made under date of February 12, 1936. Rescissions, however, amounting to \$543,559 have been made and the balance

remaining for purchase of lands is now \$406,441. This amount will be expended on areas where it has been necessary to resort to judicial proceedings for acquisition, and where such authority has been questioned under funds available by reason of Executive Order 6724.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Acres approved for purchase to June 30, 1933-----	139, 608. 29
2. Average cost per acre-----	\$4. 57
3. Acres approved for purchase July 1, 1933, to date-----	669, 974. 98
4. Average cost per acre-----	\$4. 26
5. Acres approved for purchase by Federal Emergency Relief Ad- ministration and Resettlement Administration-----	722, 039. 92
6. Average cost per acre-----	\$7. 81
7. Acres approved for purchase under other emergency funds-----	112, 958. 93
8. Average cost per acre-----	\$8. 09
9. Number of acres acquired by Executive order June 30, 1933-----	936, 686. 56
10. Number of acres acquired by Executive order July 1, 1933, to date-----	4, 687, 785. 85

SUMMARY OF THE REFUGE PROGRAM

The following tables set forth in detail the accomplishments in the acquisition of wildlife refuges under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and through the means provided by emergency appropriations:

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired or in process of acquisition with emergency funds*

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936			Acquired during fis- cal years 1932-35
		Acquired by pur- chase	Pending title con- veyance	Total	
		Acres	1	Acres	Acres
Alaska:	Chitina				
Arkansas:	Big Lake	24,324	33,971	80	80
	White River			57,995	363
Mississippi:	Sacramento	10,775	10,775	39,721	39,721
Arkansas: Desha, Monroe, and Phillips.	St. Marks.	10,653	10,653	10,653	
California: Colusa and Glenn.	Savannah River (<i>see also</i> South Carolina)	2,574	1,462	4,936	424
Florida: Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla.	Cheatahauqua		2,353	2,353	
Georgia: Chattooga.					
Illinois: Mason.	Delta			8,000	8,000
Louisiana:	Lacassine			22,304	22,304
Plaquemines:	Sabine	137,233	137,233		
Cameron and Jefferson Davis.	Seney	3,958	2,110	6,068	9,906
Michigan: Schoolcraft.	Mud Lake			52,713	52,713
Minnesota:	Rice Lake			7,243	7,243
Arkansas: Marshall.	Squaw Creek	4,027	918	4,945	1,356
Aitkin.	Swan Lake	1,320	3,400	4,920	
Missouri:	Lake Bowdoin			640	640
Iolt.	Medicine Lake			10,382	13,737
Chariton.	Red Rock Lakes			11,319	32,065
Montana:	National Bison Range.				19
Phillips.	Crescent Lake			1,847	1,847
Roosevelt and Sheridan.	Niobrara.	2,631	2,631	2,631	716
Beaverhead.	Valentine.	41,286	17,655	58,941	2,120
Lake.	Swanquarter				8
Nebraska:	Arrowwood			3,514	7,493
Garden.	Des Lacs	3,979	3,388	5,383	5,813
Cherry.	Lake Ardoch			8,721	7,273
Do.	Long Lake			201	
North Carolina: Hyde.	Burleigh and Kidder	4,940	13,114	586	
North Dakota:	Burke and Mountain.	26,385	7,979	33,364	4,065
Foster and Stutsman	Bottineau and McHenry.			15,190	
Burke and Ward.	Sargent.			2	
Walsh.	Do.			80	
Burnett and Kidder.	Renville and Ward.			21,740	23,913
Burke and Mountain.					5,499
Bottineau and McHenry.					
Sargent.					
Do.					
Renville and Ward.					

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired or in process of acquisition with emergency funds—Continued*

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936			Acquired during fiscal years 1932-35
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Oregon:					
Harney	Malheur (Blitzen unit)	3,162	3,768	6,930	64,717
Do.	Malheur (Malheur unit)	5,191	—	5,191	2,719
South Carolina:					
Charleston	Cape Romain	825	2,600	3,425	4
Jasper	Savannah River (see also Georgia)	—	—	—	678
South Dakota:					
Bennett	Larreek	1,192	3,402	4,594	3,485
Charles Mix	Lake Andes	11,111	—	11,111	310
Brown	Sand Lake	11,042	3,697	16,739	2,916
Day	Waubay	1,823	1,437	3,260	113
Tennessee:	Lake and Obion	—	—	—	16
Texas:	Bailey	—	—	—	—
Utah:	Box Elder	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin:	Buffalo and Trempealeau	—	—	—	—
Total		178,123	419,799	597,922	177,813

NOTE.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar table reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.

TABLE 1.—*Lands for refuges acquired and approved for acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1936*

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936					Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1929
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acquired other than by purchase	Total	By purchase
	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre
Alaska.							
Arizona: Mohave.	Boulder Canyon (see also Nevada)						
California:	Salton Sea						
Imperial.	Tule Lake						
Siskiyou.	Bombay Hook (see also New Jersey)						
Delaware:	Killcreek (see also New Jersey)						
Kent.							
Newcastle.							
Florida:	Cedar Keys.						
Hernando.	Chincoteague Hill						
Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla.	St. Marks.	1,237	5,486	6,725		6,722	2,033
Georgia:	Okefenokee						
Charlton, Clinch, and Ware.	Savannah River (see also South Carolina).	296,000	296,000	296,000		296,000	424
Chatman.		875	875	875		875	
McIntosh.	Wolf Island.						
Idaho: Jefferson.	Canas.						
Iowa: Lee.	Green Bay						
Louisiana:	Moosehorn.						
	Widows Island.						
	Blackwater.						
	Seney.						
Maine:	Rice Lake.						
Knox.	Thalcoot Lake.						
	Tanarac.						
Maryland: Dorchester.	Upper Mississippi (for headquarters warehouse).						
Michigan: Schoolcraft.							
Minnesota:							
Atkin.							
Cottonwood.							
Becker.							
Winona.							
Mississippi: Washington.							
Yazoo.							

¹ Set aside by executive order or proclamation.

2 Acquired by gift

3 Act of Congress:

TABLE 1.—*Lands for refuges acquired and approved for acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1936*—Continued

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1936				Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1929	
		Acquired by pur-chase	Pending title con-veyance	Total	Acquired other than by pur-chase	Total	By pur-chase
Missouri:							
Shoildard	Mingo.	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s
Holt	Squaw Creek	213	15,353	15,353	15,353	15,353	15,353
Chariton	Swan Lake		5,553	5,553	5,553	5,553	5,553
Montana:	Benton Lake						
Cascade and Choteau	Fort Keogh ⁴						
Custon	Lake Bowdoin						
Phillips	Medicine Lake						
Sheridan and Roosevelt	Red Rock Lakes						
Beaverhead							
Nebraska:							
Garden	Crescent Lake						
Cherry	Niobrara ⁴						
Nevada:	Boulder Canyon (see also Arizona)						
Clark	Charles Sheldon ⁴						
Humboldt and Washoe	Desert Game ⁴						
Clark and Lincoln	Fallon						
Churchill	Railroad Valley						
Nye	Ruby Lake						
Elko and White Pine	Killehook (see also Delaware)						
New Jersey: Salem	Bitter Lake						
New Mexico:	Soroco						
Chaves	Sierra and Socorro						
Sierra and Socorro	Chaves						
North Carolina:	Hyde						
Dare	Lake Mattamuskeet						
Hyde	Pea Island						
North Dakota:	Swanquarter						
Stutsman and Foster							
Burke and Ward	Arrowwood						
Grand Forks	Des Lacs						
	Kelly Slough						

Burleigh and Kidder							
Mountaine and Burke							
Bettineau and McHenry							
Benson							
Renville and Ward							
Oklahoma:							
Alfalfa							
Comanche							
Oregon:							
Curry							
Lake							
Harney							
Do.							
South Carolina:							
Charleston							
Jasper							
South Dakota:							
Bennett							
Charles Mix							
Brown							
Day							
Texas: Bailey							
Utah:							
Box Elder							
Do.							
Washington:							
Grant							
Spokane							
Pacific							
Wyoming:							
Albany							
Teton							
Albany							
Total							
	6,996	633,766	640,762	3,060,372	3,701,134	108,870	1,109,794

¹ Set aside by executive order or proclamation.² Act of Congress.³ Primarily for big game.⁴ Roswell, N. Mex., is now being acquired under the new name "Bitter Lake", because a large portion of the area must be purchased; the acreage reserved by Executive Order No. 5909, approved Aug. 22, 1932, has been deducted in this tabulation to avoid duplication.⁵ By erosion.⁶ Due to the purchase program now beginning on Lenore Lake, the acreage formerly shown as reserved by Executive order has been deducted to avoid duplication.⁷ Held under lease.

Note.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar table reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.





